

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 130876  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:RDOUTHARD:DH

APPROVED BY AF/S:DPETTERSON

AF/S:DKEOGH

S/S-O-TGMARTIN

-----091788 232021Z /70

O 231957Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 130876

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: X-GDS-1

TAGS: PDEV, RH, US, UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIA; OWEN CONVERSATION WITH NKOMO IN  
LONDON

REF: LONDON 07577

1. FULFILLING PROMISE MADE IN PARA 3 OF REFTEL, BRITISH  
EMBOFF SQUIRE CALLED ON AF/S AFTERNOON OF MAY 19 TO  
SHARE THE CONVERSATION WHICH OCCURED ON MAY 11  
BETWEEN DAVID OWEN AND JOSHUA NKOMO IN LONDON. SQUIRE  
BEGAN BY SAYING THAT THE BRITISH HAD AGREED NOT TO  
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PUBLICIZE THE MEETING AT NKOMO'S INSISTENCE, AND HOPED  
WE WOULD HOLD VERY CLOSELY THE FACT THAT THE MEETING  
TOOK PLACE. SQUIRE REPORTED THAT FOLLOWING POINTS, SOME  
OF WHICH APPEAR IN REFTEL, WERE MADE DURING THE CONVERSA-  
TION.

2. ALTHOUGH NOT OPPOSED TO GRAHAM-LOW MISSION, NKOMO

WAS NOT KEEN ON THE IDEA. HE SAID THEY WOULD NOT BE  
CONSIDERED "NEGOTIATORS", BUT MERELY ENVOYS. NKOMO  
STRESSED THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAD TO BE BASED ON RESOLUTION  
415 AND SHOULD INCLUDE CARVER-CHAND, PATRIOTIC FRONT AND  
SMITH. WHEN OWEN MADE POINT THAT "SMITH" NOW TRANSLATES

INTO "EXECUTIVE COUNCIL", NKOMO REPLIED THAT SMITH  
COULD BRING ANYONE HE WANTED TO THE NEGOTIATIONS.  
NKOMO SAID THAT HE LIKED SOME OF THE CARVER-CHAND  
PROPOSALS, AND THAT HE HAD NO MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH  
CARVER AND CHAND IN THEIR PROPOSED ROLES. HOWEVER,  
NKOMO FOLLOWED THIS AFFIRMATION WITH VAGUE QUALIFICATIONS  
AND SUGGESTIONS ABOUT THE OPERATION OF THE RESIDENT  
COMMISSIONER AND THE UN FORCE. FOR EXAMPLE, NKOMO USED  
THE METAPHOR, "UMBRELLA", WHEN DESCRIBING HIS VIEW OF  
THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF A UN FORCE, BUT WHAT PRECISELY HE  
HAD IN MIND WAS UNCLEAR, ACCORDING TO SQUIRE'S REPORT.

3. OWEN SAID HE BELIEVED GRAHAM AND LOW MISSION COULD  
BE USEFUL IN THAT THEY COULD WORK ON INFLUENCING THE  
PARTIES IN SALISBURY. NKOMO APPARENTLY SAW SOME MERIT  
IN THIS REASONING AND SAID THAT PERHAPS THE SALISBURY  
PARTIES WOULD BE READY TO NEGOTIATE IN A MATTER OF  
WEEKS WHEN THEY REALIZE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO END TO  
THE FIGHTING.

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4. NKOMO ADMITTED PROBLEMS WITH ZANU, BUT SAID THAT A  
BREAK WITH THEM WOULD DISPLEASE THE OAU, AND THAT ZANU  
WOULD ASSUME AN EVEN MORE IRRECONCILABLE POSTURE, WITH  
RESPECT TO NEGOTIATIONS, UNLESS MACHEL SHOULD INTERVENE  
AND JAWBONE ZANU INTO PARTICIPATING. (IN PASSING,  
NKOMO REMARKED THAT NETO HAD MORE INFLUENCE WITH MACHEL  
THAN ANY OTHER FRONT LINE LEADER.) NKOMO ADDED THAT  
THE RECENT ZANU ARRESTS OF MUDZI, GUMBO, ETC. WERE  
UNFORTUNATE BECAUSE THESE WERE GOOD MEN. HE SAID HE  
FINDS MUGABE EASY TO RELATE TO, AND THAT HE MUCH  
PREFERS HIM TO THE HARDLINE TONGOGARA. NKOMO SAID HE  
WOULD BE MEETING WITH ZANU IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS (FROM MAY  
11).

5. OWEN POINTED OUT SOME PROBLEMS HE HAD WITH PF  
PROPOSALS RE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS (SQUIRE DID NOT  
AMPLIFY). NKOMO, DURING DISCUSSION OF PF IDEAS, SAID  
THAT HE IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT ROLE FOR SUCH CURRENT  
RHODESIAN MILITARY CHIEFS AS WALLS AND HICKMAN.

6. SQUIRE SAID THAT OWEN, IN REFLECTING ON THIS CON-  
VERSATION, CONCLUDED THAT NKOMO IS SERIOUS ABOUT NEGOTIA-

TIONS AND WANTS THEM TO PROCEED ON THE BASIS OF THE AAP, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON RESOLUTION 415. MOREOVER, OWEN BELIEVES THAT NKOMO DOES NOT WANT TO SPLIT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. SQUIRE COMMENTED THAT NKOMO'S CONCERNS HAVE BEEN FED INTO THE BRITISH IDEAS ON FURTHER STEPS, BUT HE DID NOT ELABORATE. VANCE

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PAGE 01 STATE 130876  
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011  
DRAFTED BY AF/S:DKEOGH  
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S/S-O:KDSCOTT  
-----103463 241817Z /46  
O 241812Z MAY 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 130876

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 130876 ACTION LONDON LUSAKA GABORONE  
MAPUTO DAR ES SALAAM PRETORIA USUN NEW YORK MAY 23.

QUOTE O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 130876

EXDIS

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2. ALTHOUGH NOT OPPOSED TO GRAHAM-LOW MISSION, NKOMO WAS NOT KEEN ON THE IDEA. HE SAID THEY WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED "NEGOTIATORS", BUT MERELY ENVOYS. NKOMO STRESSED THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAD TO BE BASED ON RESOLUTION 415 AND SHOULD INCLUDE CARVER-CHAND, PATRIOTIC FRONT AND SMITH. WHEN OWEN MADE POINT THAT "SMITH" NOW TRANSLATES

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Review Markings:**  
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